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Iowa Department of Education awards \$1.7 million for after-school programs to improve student performance
Four schools and a community organization receive 21st Century Community Learning Center grants

DES MOINES, Iowa – The Iowa Department of Education (DE) recently approved federally funded grants to support before- and after-school learning centers in Iowa that provide academic enrichment opportunities for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty schools. This year, Iowa has awarded five new 21st Century Community Learning Center grants to four school districts and one community organization, representing a total of 13 new program sites.

The 21st Century Community Learning Center grant program assists communities and school districts in offering a broad array of academic and enrichment opportunities to students and their families before and after school, on holidays, weekends and during summer recess. The centers help students meet state and local learning standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offer students a variety of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children. The grant program is administered by the Iowa Department of Education, and funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

The organizations receiving funds, their level of funding, and the number of sites funded through this year's grant are:

Storm Lake Community School District; \$146,813; one site
Davenport Community School District; \$404,956; four sites
Perry Community School District; \$150,000; one site
Des Moines Community School District; \$600,000; four sites
Siouxland Human Investment Partnership; \$414,842; three sites

With these new grants, the program will fund a total of 53 centers across the state that will serve approximately 5,216 Iowa children and 2,851 adult family members. The Iowa Department of Education has administered the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program for five years.

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The Iowa Department of Education works with the State of Iowa Board of Education to provide oversight, supervision and support for the state education system, which includes public elementary and secondary schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies, community colleges and teacher preparation programs. The department is committed to high levels of learning, achievement and performance for all students, so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce.

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Helping Communities Meet the Learning Needs of All Their Children and Adults